Merry Christmas

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 12 DECEMBER 2009

SBARA 2010 Officer Nominations

Nominated Officers

President:	Jim Thomas — KI6TCE
Vice President:	Robin Yee — KI6YTA
Treasurer:	Don Amyx — N6DA
Secretary:	Open

Appointed Board of Directors

Newsletter Ed:	Bill Artelt WB9YVM
WebMaster:	Umesh Godke K6VUG
Circulation:	Tammy Norem KG6HJI
Membership:	Al Rendon WT6K
Photographer:	Dan Curtis N6WN
Quartermaster:	Rita Derbas KI6SSQ & Dan Curtis N6WN
At Large:	Bernhard Hailer: AE6YN & Brad Douglas KB8UYR/6
Programs:	Open

Other BOD Position

Current Past President: Steve Wilson KA6S

Let's all give a great big hand to our newly elected slate of officers for 2010. Thanks for a great year from SBARA!!!

SBARA Board of Directors

SBARA South Bay Amateur Radio Association

ARRL Member Club Since 1974

SBARA Board Meeting

December, 2009

Attendees:
Al, WT6K (current board member at large)
Bernhard, AE6YN (taking records, current board member at large)
Don, N6DA (current treasurer)
Jim, KI6TCE (2010 president nominee)
Rita, KI6SSQ (2010 quartermaster nominee)
Robin, KI6YTA (2010 vice president nominee)
Steve, KA6S (current board member at large)
Umesh, K6VUG (current webmaster)
Bill, WB9YV (current news editor)
Meeting took place at "Mission Coffee" on Wednesday Dec 2nd, 2009, and started at 7:30 p.m..

Al handed out an agenda which was discussed.
* Calendar 2010 was checked for conflicts: no problems this year with any of our regular Friday meetings, Field-day or Zucchini Festival.
* It was suggested to add a calendar to our website. This might require some time to complete.
* Requested Jim to set up a convenient date for 2010 board meetings. The meetings should always take place shortly before the Groundplane is published, i.e. last week of the month?
* Al handed out Job Description documents to Jim, Robin and Rita.
* Christmas dinner: to be set up like our regular pre meeting dinner, i.e. Friday Dec. 11th, 6pm, at City Wok. A door prize was selected: target price $250. Umesh proposed a combination of a Garmin Nüvi + a Garmin->NMEA0183 converter + an OpenTracker: this would be a mobile tracker unit which can display the current location of APRS stations around it.
* ELECTIONS will be held at the December meeting:
  o The board will present its nominations
  o Position for secretary is still open.
  o "floor nominations" will be opened (nominees must have been asked and be willing to serve position!)
  o If there is no floor nomination, a vote for the entire board to be accepted will be requested
  o If there are more nominations then ask nominees to leave room and take vote for each by hand count.
* Jim to call a few members to find out whether we can nominate a secretary.

Plans for next year needs to be set up.
* We need presentations / speakers. Ideas needed.
* We need a program facilitator.
* Rita and Bernhard to work on a VE group setup. Discussed the various available VEC's.
* Dues reminders: Al and Bernhard to create a serial mailing from our membership database.
* Jim to ask Jim Latham and Bob Vallio (ARRL representatives) to visit one of our next regular meetings.

The meeting ended at 8:33.

Special Interest…

- SBARA 2010 Elections
- Membership renewal Time!

Special Interest

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Christmas History

The first time the birth of Jesus Christ was attributed to the date December 25 was in the 4th century, according to early Roman history. Early celebrations of Christmas are thought to have derived from Roman and other European festivals that marked the end of the harvest, and the winter solstice.

Some customs from those celebrations that have endured include decorating homes with greenery, giving gifts, singing songs, and eating special foods.

The holiday developed further with the legend of St. Nicholas. Although much of his history is unconfirmed, the man who became St. Nicholas lived in the 4th century and is believed to have been a bishop in Asia Minor.

Many miracles attributed to him are dubious at best. Nevertheless, some countries named him their patron saint. He also is considered the patron saint of, among others, children (for protecting them), sailors (whom he reputedly saved at sea), and the poor (to whom he generously gave gifts).

In his honor, the Feast of St. Nicholas was marked on December 6 and gifts given the night before. The tradition was well established in many European countries by the 12th century. Eventually, because St. Nicholas' Day and Christmas Day are so close together, their traditions generally were combined.

St. Nicholas took on different personas in different countries. For example, The Netherlands have Sinter Klaas; Father Christmas gives gifts in Great Britain; Père Noël does the same in France; and in Germany St. Nicholas has had many names including Klaasbuur, Burklaas, Rauklas, Bullerklaas, and Sunnercla, although Father Christmas is becoming more popular. In the United States, the Dutch settlers' Sinter Klaas evolved into Santa Claus.

Other Christmas facts:

- The story of Jesus Christ's birth is told in New Testament's gospel of Saint Luke and Saint Matthew.
- Some Christians celebrate Jesus Christ's coming on January 6, the Epiphany, when they believe he was baptized.
- The song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" refers to the 12 days between Christmas and the Epiphany.
- The word Christmas comes from the Old English *Cristes maesse*, which means Christ's mass.
- The word *Xmas* is sometimes used instead of Christmas. In Greek, Xis the first letter of Christ's name.
- In 1969, the Roman Catholic church dropped St. Nicholas' Feast Day from its calendar because his life is so unreliably documented.
- The German word *Christkindl*, which means Christ child, eventually turned into Kriss Kringle.
- Santa Claus generally was depicted as an elf until 1931, when Coca-Cola ads portrayed him as human-sized.
- Rudolph didn't become Santa's ninth reindeer until 1939 when an advertising writer for the department store Montgomery Ward created him.

Sources: Encarta 96 Encyclopedia, World Book, Encyclopedia Britannica

Merry Christmas to All from SBARA

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Membership Renewal Information

Membership Renewal Policy

Effective 2010, renewals of membership will only be accepted through March 31st. Beginning on April 1st only new membership will be accepted.

Therefore, after April 1st you will be required to pay the $10 new membership fee to retain you SBARA membership.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR SBARA MEMBERSHIP BY MARCH 31, 2010 TO AVOID THE $10 NEW MEMBERSHIP FEE.

To save on postage please be aware that the renewal package that you received is the only membership renewal notice you will be receiving in the mail. Accordingly, to save postage we are including your 2010 membership card

trusting that you will be sending in your membership renewal fees.

Thank you for your continued support. Looking forward to a eventful 2010.

SBARA Leadership Team

FCC Looks to Revise, Clarify Vanity Call Sign Rules

On Wednesday, November 25, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) -- WT Docket No. 09-209 -- seeking to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules to clarify certain rules and codify existing procedures governing the vanity call sign system, as well as revise certain rules applicable to club stations.
According to the FCC, almost 80,000 licensees have replaced their sequentially issued Amateur Radio call signs with a vanity call sign since the program began in 1996. When the program began, the Commission established what they called "the broad outlines" of the vanity call sign system, concluding that call signs generally should not be available for reassignment for two years following the death of a licensee, or expiration or termination of the license for that call sign. In doing so, the Commission made exceptions for former
holders of the call sign, close relatives of a deceased former holder and club stations of which a deceased former holder was a member.

The Commission did not, however, specify all of the procedures governing the vanity call sign system, but indicated that the procedures "would be set out in the Public Notices announcing 'starting gates' for the groups receiving initial priority and that the procedures would be adjusted from gate to gate as experience dictated." The procedures announced in the Public Notices announcing the gates are still in effect, but they are not set forth in the Commission's Rules.

The NPRM states that the FCC "now believes] that certain provisions should be codified in our rules, and others added, so that the vanity call sign system will be fair, equitable and transparent to all amateur service licensees. The Commission also decided in the Vanity Report and Order [issued in 1996] to resume issuing new club station licenses. We believe that certain rule changes to the club station licensing rules may be appropriate."

Further information can be found on the web at, http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/25/11220/?nc=1

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Refreshments
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Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

WA6PWW -	147.015 +600Khz, PL 103.5
WA6PWW -	223.900 –500Khz, PL 107.2
WA6PWW -	442.600 +5Mhz, PL 107.2
K6AIR -	146.940 –600Khz, PL 123.0
K6AIR -	441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0
ARES -	Tuesday @ 7:30pm - 147.015 + PL 103.5

SBARA Meeting Location

Our meeting location is at Hurricane Electric.

The address in Fremont is:

760 Mission Court — Come to the meeting.

Bring your HF transceiver, antenna) or HT !

Talk-In 147.015Mhz. +600

Also consider joining us at Wok City Diner for Dinner at 6PM

Mingle with your fellow SBARA members and Guests!!!!

The **South Bay Amateur Radio Association** is a general interest amateur radio club serving the Fremont Tri-City area. The club has been in existence since 1974, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, a California not-for-profit tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Statutes. We sponsor training for new hams, license examination sessions, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

SBARA meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at Hurricane Electric in Fremont, California. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM. After conducting business, coffee and snacks are served while we socialize. Following the break, a program of interest will be presented. All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome. We hope to see you there!

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Announcements

SBARA's monthly meeting is December 11th. Beginning at 7:30pm

Our meeting location is at Hurricane Electric. The address in Fremont is:

760 Mission Court —

Come to the meeting and bring your HT, HF Rig and Antenna!!

The Ground Plane — KU6S
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